



National Institute for Health Research

SCHOOLS FOR PRIMARY CARE, SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

Introduction

The vision of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

This document sets out how the NIHR's Schools for Primary Care Research, Social Care Research and Public Health Research contribute to this vision.

Overview

The NIHR has established three national schools: the School for Primary Care Research, the School for Social Care Research, and the School for Public Health Research, the latter launched in April 2012.

The national schools represent a unique collaboration between the leading academic centres in England.

Aims

The three Schools aim to:

- Increase and develop the evidence base for practice in the primary care, adult social care, and public health sectors respectively.
- Contribute to ongoing efforts to build research capacity in their respective sectors.
- Improve research awareness in their respective sectors.
- Create a 'critical mass' of research expertise and funding through coordinated and collaborative working across the country.

Function

The core activities of the **School for Primary Care Research** are:

- Commissioning high quality research to inform the development of clinical practice in primary care, and providing strategic leadership to support the development of primary care research.
- Increasing research capacity in primary care, by providing research training and career development opportunities for clinical researchers from all relevant professional backgrounds, and for non-clinical researchers in primary care

- Focusing on the following areas of research:
 - epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, management and prognosis of conditions in primary care;
 - organisation and delivery of primary care services, including the interface with organisations outside primary care;
 - development of methods to address primary care research questions.
- Establishing links with patients and the public to inform the agenda of the School, ensuring relevance and impact of the research that it funds.

The core activities of the **School for Social Care Research** are:

- Conducting and commissioning high quality research, providing a focus for social care research within the NIHR, and promoting the general development of adult social care research.
- Engaging with users of services, carers and practitioners to understand the relevance of research questions to achieve maximum impact.
- Supporting the generation of impact from findings and supporting wider knowledge transfer activities.

The School uses a broad and inclusive description of adult social care, encompassing the wide range of care and support that is available and used by adults; the diversity of services and service providers of adult social care; and care and support provided through informal care, self care and self-funded care.

The core activities of the **School for Public Health Research** are to increase the evidence base for effective public health practice by:

- Conducting research to increase the volume and quality of applied public health research and evidence, including evaluations.
- Creating an environment where first class applied public health research, focused on the needs of the public, can thrive.

The School has many diverse national and local audiences, involving engagement with professionals working in local public health systems in any sector, with members of the public, and with the wider public health community. As part of its overall programme, the School has developed the Public Health Practice Evaluation Scheme (PHPES). This enables people working in public health who are delivering innovative projects and initiatives aimed at improving health, to work in partnership with the School to conduct rigorous evaluations of their cost-effectiveness.

Contracts for this school end in March 2017. Following a renew and refresh process through open competitive tender, eight members have been identified to take forward the second phase of the School from April 2016. Partners are currently working on contracts and business planning.

Further Information

Further details about the Schools are available on the [NIHR website](#).

Department of Health Lead:

Dr David Cox

Deputy Director, Research Finance & Programmes
Research & Development Directorate
Department of Health
Email: R&D@dh.gsi.gov.uk